

REMARKS

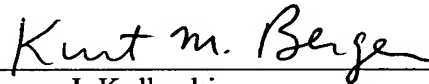
Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is currently pending. Claims 2-30 have been canceled by the present preliminary amendment. In addition, the specification has been amended to clarify that the present application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/520,368, filed March 7, 2000.

Accordingly, an examination of Claim 1 is believed to be in order. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



James J. Kulbaski  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 34,648  
Kurt M. Berger, Ph.D.  
Registration No. 51,461

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413-2220  
(OSMMN 08/03)  
JJK:KMB:des

I:\ATTY\KMB\252'S\252122US\252122US.PREL.AM.DOC